

in the ranks of academia to become the largest university in the Dallas-Fort Worth area with a student population of over 37,000.

Starting out as a small, private teacher's college, an important milestone was reached in 1901 when the school became a publicly-funded educational institution. 1913 was a banner year with the opening of the first library and genesis of the sports program as well as student enrollment reaching 1,000 students. In the 1920's, the music program became well-known with the introduction of the Aces of Collegeland band. This iconic moment still resonates today as the School of Music has gained renown as the first in the world to offer a jazz studies degree and is one of the largest music institutions at the collegiate level in North America.

During World War II, the campus became a training site and enrollment declined by half as the student body was called to service. In the decades to come, the institution grew in size and stature as it attained university status; became home to the Texas Academy of Math and Science; added the College of Engineering at the Discovery Park campus; built the premier Murchison Performing Arts Center, Apogee Stadium and Union venues; launched the nation's first comprehensive emergency management degree and just recently achieved recognition as a tier one research university.

The University of North Texas has become a cornerstone educational institution and powerful economic generator for not only Denton, but also the entire north Texas region. As a proud UNT alumnus, I am pleased to join the students, faculty, staff, administration and community in celebrating the university's quasiquicentennial. In the years to come, UNT will continue to serve as a leader in higher education. It is an honor to serve the University of North Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### MAJORITY RULE BY PAYTON SPRAGUE

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Payton Sprague attends Dawson High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: majority rule.

Majority rule is an important concept both in our political system and in our society. It allows for an orderly and practical determination of the direction of our society by the majority, thereby avoiding the problems associated with a system that requires unanimous support. Although it might sound ideal to have everyone united behind a single effort, law or action, this in reality would be impossible. Rarely would you find unanimous support for any idea or law. Such a requirement would lead to an inability to function as a society.

If I were elected as a Congressperson, I would vote consistent with the majority views of my constituents. As a politician who is elected, by a majority vote, I would be compelled to vote consistent with interests of the majority of my constituents, whenever possible. This may be the case even if I don't agree entirely agree with their wishes. If ones goal is to be reelected, then they might believe that pleasing the majority is the easiest way to go. In contrast, if the goal of the congressman is to make a change in their community and country, then they would do what would end up being the best overall choice.

The wishes of the majority should be met until they abridge the rights of remaining citizens. The people vote on the members of congress for a reason. By doing so they give the power to a single individual (congressperson) to make decisions on the course or vote that best benefits the whole constituency. But, the decisions or votes should ultimately be made by the congressperson because they are the most qualified person and the only individual that is likely to be aware of all of the implications of the decision. Hopefully this knowledge will give the congressperson the ability to overcome any bias, sentiment or other shortcomings that the constituency may have in order to arrive at the decisions that are best for the group.

Majority rule is not perfect because it ignores the needs of the minority, but it is likely the best compromise for a large society that would otherwise be stymied by indecision if unanimous rule was required.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, on April 14, 2016, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On roll call numbers 145, 146, 148, and 149, I would have voted "no."

On roll call number 147, I would have voted "yes."

#### HONORING THE 2015 ELLY DOYLE PARK SERVICE AWARDS RECIPIENTS

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2016*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the honorees of the 2015 Elly Doyle

Park Service Awards. These awards, sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board in cooperation with the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board, recognize individuals and organizations for their extraordinary contributions to our environment and public park system.

Fairfax County is regarded as one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, and raise a family, and our nationally-recognized park system has played a key role in that distinction. Our community has a strong commitment to promoting and preserving our environment, including our public parks and outdoor spaces. Each year thousands of volunteers donate their talents and time to protect our natural and cultural resources and enhance public educational and recreational services.

The Elly Doyle Service Awards were established in 1988 in honor of former board member Ellamae Doyle's many years of outstanding service. In addition, recipients also have been selected for the Eakin Philanthropy Award, named in honor of the family that donated the first parcels of parkland to the Park Authority more than 50 years ago, the Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship, named in honor of a celebrated local historian and military veteran, the Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award, named in honor of a local champion of environmental education and protection and a special recognition for Park Authority volunteers, who play an integral role in the agency's success. This year also marks the debut of a new award, the Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award, named for the Sully District representative on the Park Authority Board and recognizing the value of partnership and collaboration in providing state of the art facilities to a varied constituency. I congratulate each of the following recipients of these prestigious awards and proudly submit their names:

2015 Elly Doyle Park Service Award Recipients: Friends of Accotink Creek, Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, Susan Voss.

2015 Outstanding Volunteer Recognition: David Fennel, Ken Kozloff, Pat McCormack, Ivy Sinaiko, John & Aaron Abalos-Green, Betty Holman, Gary Blasser, Janet and Rodney Smith, Jim Cudlip, Kat Dyer, Marian Ewell, Marilyn Connors, Mary Kay Claus, Monty Montgomery, Mila Weiss, Richard Duong, Songui "Chiraz" Sanwogou, Vivian Morgan-Mendez, Will MacDonald, Yadi Bermea.

Student Honoree: Joshua Buontempo.

2015 Eakin Philanthropy Award: Tom D. Fleury, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Gary F. Smith Memorial Field, Suzan Syron-Singh.

2015 Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship Award: Paula Esley.

2015 Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award: The Science Education Team at Fairfax County Public Schools.

2015 Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award: Harold L. Strickland, Michael R. Frey.